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Statement submitted by World Jewellery Confederation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Statement

The international jewellery and gemstone sectors, through the World Jewellery Confederation, supports and promotes the creation of sustainable economic opportunities in developing countries and in so doing will advance the goals and objectives of the United Nations development agenda, and in particular continue to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The Confederation recognizes the responsibility of the international jewellery and gemstone sectors to enable and support developing countries to utilize their natural resources so that sustainable and equitable economic opportunities will be created. This is an essential tool to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, especially in Africa, where much of the jewellery industry's raw materials are sourced.

The Confederation is committed to the principle that corporate social responsibility includes both the requirement that the jewellery business and its products be devoid of ethical impropriety and also that they play a positive role in creating sustainable economic opportunities in the countries and communities where raw materials are sourced. It believes that consumer confidence will be enhanced when the public appreciates that jewellery plays a constructive role in supporting sustainable development, providing for decent living conditions and the well-being of the people and communities that depend upon it for their sustenance.

The Confederation recommends that the global jewellery and gemstone industries act to support the new post-2015 development agenda and its new sustainable development goals, though economic growth and stability shared by the community.

The Confederation recommends that the global jewellery and gemstone industries, through its ethical values and through its business strategies, support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which aims to protect humanity from abuse and oppression and also to ensure that it enjoys equitable opportunity and the promise of a better future.